THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **PATENT** /en, Joseph H.
t Unit: 2815

3964
618029-8/RPB/RAS/KSTECHMOLGEY CENTER 2800 09/768,904 ) Date: March 28, 2002 Applicant: Lap Wai Chow, et al. ) Examiner: Nguyen, Joseph H. Group Art Unit: 2815 Our Ref: B-3964 . Filed: January 24, 2001 For: "INTEGRATED CIRCUITS Re: **RESPONSE** PROTECTED AGAINST REVERSE **ENGINEERING AND METHOD FOR** FABRICATING THE SAME USING AN ) APPARENT METAL CONTACT LINE TERMINATING ON FIELD OXIDE"

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper responds to the Office Action dated December 28, 2001. Please amend the application as indicated below. All amendments and remarks herein are made without prejudice.

## IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant encloses herewith a letter to the Official Draftsperson requesting approval for corrected Figures 1(a), 2, and 3 to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second paragraph on page 10 of the current specification with the replacement paragraph on page 2 of this response. Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 10 of the current specification with the replacement paragraph on page 3 of this response. A marked-up version of the replacement paragraphs showing the changes made is attached as Appendix A.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 17-20 as presented on page 4 of this response.